

### Gladstone CIRM Scholars Program

## **Grant Award Details**

Gladstone CIRM Scholars Program

Grant Type: Research Training II

Grant Number: TG2-01160

Project Objective: Programmatic objectives including appropriate activities such as conference attendance,

sufficient Institutional and PI support, courses etc. have been met.

Investigator:

Name: Robert Mahley

**Institution**: Gladstone Institutes, J. David

Type: PI

**Award Value:** \$4,869,300

Status: Closed

**Progress Reports** 

Reporting Period: Year 4

**View Report** 

**Reporting Period**: Year 5

**View Report** 

**Reporting Period**: Year 6 and NCE

**View Report** 

# **Grant Application Details**

Application Title: CIRM Scholars Program

#### Public Abstract:

This CIRM Scholars Training Program seeks continued funding of a highly successful Type II (Intermediate training) program that is currently funded for postdoctoral and clinical scholars. The host institution conducts basic research on three of the most important medical problems of modern times: cardiovascular disease, AIDS, and neurodegenerative disorders. Each of these research areas addresses promising targets for regenerative medicine. The host institution is located in a new 200,000 sq. ft. facility, including CIRM-funded laboratory space constructed without federal funding. Its location-[REDACTED] -provides an ideal environment for collaboration between scientists at the host institution, neighboring [REDACTED] laboratories, and other research institutions. The host institution is an independent research institute affiliated with [REDACTED], and we combine some of our educational activities with the robust training programs in stem cell biology at [REDACTED], thus facilitating synergy and eliminating duplication. The host institution offers a unique training for CIRM scholars, providing a commitment to educating the next generation of biomedical scientists, highly interactive research groups, and substantial individual feedback from experienced mentors. Nearly two-thirds of the 23 laboratories at the host institution are engaged in some aspect of stem cell research. The host institution is one of the top ranked recipients of CIRM funding and the CIRM scholars program is the centerpiece of all our stem cell research efforts. More than 350 fellows have trained at the host institution. In a national survey by [REDACTED], the host institution has been rated in the top 10 institutions for postdoctoral scientists to work in the U.S. for the past 3 years (over 100 universities/institutions were ranked). Continued funding of this CIRM Scholars Training Program will allow us to enhance our research program to help meet the goals of regenerative medicine, while at the same time enhancing the training of young scientists.

# Statement of Benefit to California:

Contribution to the California Economy: A major goal of regenerative medicine is to repair damaged tissue. Our CIRM scholars have research programs that focus on developing new methods to differentiate human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) into specific cell types for regeneration of diseased tissues. Our program could benefit the California economy by training highly skilled scientists who will take leading positions in California's research institutions and the biotechnology industry. These scientists will also create technology that will be the basis of creating jobs in the biomedical industry. For instance, new stem cell lines could be valuable for biotechnology companies and researchers who are screening for drug compounds for regenerative medicine. Furthermore, our CIRM scholars are working closely with California companies to develop new equipment and analysis software that could be the basis for new product lines or new businesses. As new regenerative therapies come to fruition, we anticipate that California medical centers will be leading the way. Ultimately, the most important contribution of our CIRM scholars may be to improve the health of Californians. Diseases that are the target of regenerative medicine are major causes of mortality and morbidity, resulting in billions of dollars in healthcare costs and lost days at work. As we continue our efforts in medical research, we hope to one day unlock the secrets of tissue development and repair. This knowledge will help medical researchers develop beneficial therapies beyond what is currently available and potentially improve the quality of life and life expectancy of patients who suffer from disease.

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